

Message Text

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TAGS: SREF, EAID, UNRWA, US, XF

SUBJ: USG ADVANCE PAYMENT TO UNRWA

REF: STATE 174393

FOLLOWING IS PRESS RELEASE BY USUN DATED AUG 22 REGARDING
DELIVERY OF \$10 MILLION CHECK FOR UNRWA.

QTE: AMBASSADOR JOHN SCALI, UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DELIVERS A \$10 MILLION EARLY UNITED
STATES CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS
AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES.

AMBASSADOR JOHN SCALI, UNITED STATES PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, TODAY DELIVERED A
CHECK FOR TEN MILLION DOLLARS AS AN EARLY PARTIAL PAYMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES (UNRWA)
IN THE NEAR EAST FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975. THE EARLY PAYMENT
WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL
FOR URGENT ASSISTANCE IN OVERCOMING THE MAJOR FINANCIAL
CRISIS FACING UNRWA.

IN EXPLAINING THE UNITED STATES ACTION, AMBASSADOR SCALI
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SAID: "IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT THIS CHECK

FOR TEN MILLION DOLLARS AS PART OF THE REGULAR UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA'S BUDGET. ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO WE MADE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$4.2 MILLION TO HELP ALLEVIATE UNRWA'S IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL PROBLEM. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY ALSO MADE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$7.9 MILLION IN LATE JULY. WITH THESE TWO CONTRIBUTIONS, THE \$12 MILLION DEFICIT FACED BY UNRWA THIS YEAR HAS NOW BEEN UNDERWRITTE. THE UNITED STATES REGULARLY HAS BEEN THE LARGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR TO UNRWA. THIS YEAR WE WILL GIVE \$23.2 MILLION AS OUR REGULAR CONTRIBUTION. REGRETTABLY, SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN ENOUGH, AND EMERGENCY FUNDING MEASURES HAVE BEEN NECESSARY.

"THE AGENCY WAS FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF SEVERELY CURTAILING ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS THE CLOSING OF SCHOOLS AND THE REDUCTION OF RATIONS. IT NOW APPEARS THAT UNRWA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS HAS BEEN AVERTED, FOR THIS YEAR. UNRWA IS A VIRTUALLY IMPORTANT UNITED NATIONS AGENCY, AND ALL UNITED NATIONS MEMBERS SHOULD FEEL AN OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS SUPPORT. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE MEMBERS WHO DO NOT CONTRIBUTE, OR WHO CONTRIBUTE INADEQUATELY, WILL RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION AND DECIDE NOW TO SUPPORT THE AGENCY. UNRWA'S FINANCIAL HOUSE MUST BE SET IN ORDER SO THAT IT CAN CONTINUE SUCCESSFULLY TO FULFILL ITS UN-MANDATED ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"WHILE UNRWA'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT IS A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN TO US, WE ARE REMINDED OF THE FAR LARGER, INCREASINGLY SERIOUS, FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ENTIRE UNITED NATIONS RESULTING FROM THE REFUSAL OF SOME MEMBER STATES TO PAY FOR SOME UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES. WHILE OUR PAYMENT TODAY WILL HELP MEET UNRWA'S PRESSING FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR A BRIEF PERIOD, URGENT ACTION ALSO IS NEEDED TO PLACE ALL UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES ON A SOUND FINANCIAL FOOTING." UNQTE.
SCALI

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